Close cooperation between FAO and the Government of Kenya predates the establishment of FAO’s country representation in 1977. Over the decades, FAO has promoted efforts to consolidate key agricultural institutions, strengthen drought response and improve nutrition and food safety, thus contributing to the development of a vibrant and dynamic agriculture sector and a sustainable economy. Today, FAO is at the forefront of both development and emergency assistance aimed at building resilience and food and nutrition security.

**Agriculture sector transformation**

FAO has been supporting the Government to build an enabling policy and investment environment for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. As part of these efforts, FAO has been involved in over 15 high-level policy dialogue events to influence strategic decisions for agriculture transformation and improved food and nutrition security. The Organization has contributed towards the development and review of 20 policy documents including the draft of the overarching Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy. It has provided technical input for the development of the County Integrated Development Plans for 17 counties and supported the finalization and launch of the Kenya Food Composition Tables and the Kenya Recipe Book. FAO has also contributed to the institutionalization of Field School methodology through its inclusion in the curriculum of Pwani University.

**Matching FAO’s expertise to Kenya’s development priorities**

FAO assistance in Kenya is shaped by the 2018-2022 FAO Country Programming Framework (CPF), which is centered on four priority areas:

- **Developing an Enabling policy environment** for the transformation and growth of the agriculture sector under the devolved system.

- **Strengthening inclusive value chains** for decent employment generation and poverty reduction.

- **Increasing resilience of food and livelihood systems** by strengthening institutional capacities for early warning, preparedness and response, increasing livelihood options and diversity, and improving nutrition in a gender responsive manner.

- **Improving governance of natural resources**, with an emphasis on land, water and forestry landscapes.

Jointly developed with the Government and other partners, the CPF reflects relevant priorities in key national development policies, including the Big Four Agenda and the Third Medium Term Plan for the implementation of the Kenya Vision 2030. The CPF is fully aligned with the UN Development Assistance Framework for Kenya.

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**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS IN KENYA**

Established in 1977, the FAO Representation in Kenya is pleased to be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

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Strengthening inclusive value chains

With a view to achieving sustainable and efficient agricultural and food systems through inclusive agribusiness and value chain development, around 56,600 farmers have been trained in sustainable and market-oriented agriculture through partnerships with various County Governments. This has resulted in 34,000 ha of land benefiting from improved technologies and practices. FAO has enabled producers to access credit valued at US$160,000, while contracts valued at more than US$1.5 million have been signed between producers and buyers. Also, youth initiatives have contributed to strengthening the capacity of 7,450 youths to develop agriculture-based enterprises earning them over US$476,000. In an effort to increase rice production and productivity in Kenya, FAO has supported the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization to register three new rice varieties.

Improving governance of natural resources

Effective management of natural resources is key to sustainable and resilient agriculture. Through the promotion of Participatory Rangeland Management approaches, the counties of Garissa, Tana River, Isiolo, Marsabit and Samburu have developed resource maps, grazing plans and enforceable grazing regulations. In Isiolo County (Oldonyiro Ward), FAO has facilitated the rehabilitation of 158 ha of rangeland through a Cash for Work scheme targeting 200 vulnerable households. FAO has supported capacity building for 303 county decision-makers and technical staff on land governance while more than 11,000 community members have been sensitized on communal land governance. FAO is assisting in the digitization of land registries in eight counties. At a national level, FAO is supporting the Ministry of Land and Physical Planning to establish a Customer Care Centre at the Ministry Headquarters where Kenyan citizens will be able to access land-related services.

In collaboration with WFP and UNHCR, FAO is leading a programme to build social cohesion through the integration of refugees into host communities. FAO led the effort to open up 400 ha of land set aside for agriculture within Kalobeyei settlement, which houses refugees from Burundi, the Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. A total of 187 ha were cultivated during the March-May 2018 rainfall season, while a total of 100 tonnes of sorghum were produced. In addition, a negotiated land use management plan was also developed through a FAO-led consultative process between the County Government of Turkana, the host community and the refugees. Subsequently, a land use management committee comprising refugee and host community members has been formed for the management of the identified agricultural land.

Increasing resilience

FAO has been instrumental in strengthening capacity in early warning, preparedness and response to disasters. Within this context, the Organization has developed the Predictive Livestock Early Warning System and the Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis tool, which helped the Government effectively manage the June 2018 Rift Valley Fever outbreak. In addition, FAO facilitated the establishment of the Laboratory Information Management System, which has allowed testing and validation of the preparedness capability of Kenya’s animal and public health systems, timely and real-time sharing of laboratory diagnostic results and other related information. Further, capacity development of the Central Veterinary Laboratory was undertaken, and livelihood-supporting enterprises established through Agro-Pastoral Field Schools. Around 100,000 farmers were trained in optimal practices for the management of Fall Armyworm, and direct assistance was provided to 7,242 drought-stricken and 11,130 flood-affected households. Finally, advocacy and awareness raising initiatives on nutrition have targeted 13,682 people in Kenya.

Global knowledge transfer

In the framework of South-South Cooperation, FAO has facilitated study tours in Peru, Ecuador, Malaysia and Indonesia for 15 participants from the National Government, County Government and civil society with the aim of promoting intergovernmental and intersectoral coordination and collaboration, and effective public participation.

“Food production increased over the last decades, but at a high cost to the environment [...]. Nourishing people must go hand in hand with nurturing the planet.”

FAO Director-General